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Identical letters dated 27 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place at 4 a.m. on 19 June 2001. The tender *1 Haziran* was returning to Mina' al-Nasr (formerly Abu Fulus) after unloading its cargo at Mina' al-Zubayr when it became the object of a United States act of aggression inside Iraqi territorial waters at a point 1 nautical mile from Mina' al-Amiq. United States forces attacked the vessel using two armed craft and a helicopter. It was taken to a point 10 nautical miles south of Mina' al-Bakr, where the crewmen were held on deck while the entire vessel was searched. The tender and its crew were released after three and a half hours.

In entering Iraqi territorial waters in order to attack the tender and its crew United States forces committed a wanton breach of Iraq's sovereignty and an act of armed aggression that by the most elementary norms governing international relations is in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and prevailing international custom, all of which forbid the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and independence of any State. We protest against the hostile actions being taken by United States forces, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent encroachments such as these, involving as they do entry into Iraqi territorial waters in order to commit such acts of provocation. The Government of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international custom to take the measures necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to claim compensation for the moral and material damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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